

CORRESPONDENCE.

WAR AND THE BREED.

Sir,—I am glad to agree with Chancellor David Starr Jordan that, with every writing in the English language, the first question ought to be this question of fair play. Therefore, in criticising his habit of quoting without references, and so often quoting inaccurately, I took some pains to give full references myself. He now complains that I gave no evidence for questioning his proficiency in the German language. I will therefore here supply the details which he demands.

He quotes, I think, only seven lines of German from Seeck (pp. 135-38; Seeck; ed. 1910; pp. 274, 286). In those seven lines there are five errors (*Volken*, *Trummern*, *dauerende*; *überhaupt* thrust in where it makes nonsense, and *dementsprechend* transformed into *damitsprechend*, which makes worse nonsense). His 35 lines of translation from Seeck tell the same tale of defective scholarship, as anyone may see by comparing them with the original.

Dr. Jordan also complains that I have not "honestly treated" the passages of his book to which I appeal as proving that he assumes, when his argument requires it, "the inheritance of acquired characteristics"; and he says he will "take a single case in illustration"—presumably his strongest case—referring to pp. 66 and 75 of his book. I cannot ask you to reprint the pages, which alone would enable readers to decide between us; I will only ask any reader who may have been impressed by Dr. Jordan's accusation to refer now to those pages, and to ask himself with what show of reason Dr. Jordan can now write "neither of these statements has anything whatever to do with the inheritance of acquired characters."

But I can best defend myself from this accusation of injustice by taking Dr. Jordan at his own plain word. "The proper answer to (Mr. Coulton's) strictures," he writes, "would be to print, in connection with them, the actual paragraphs in question." I have recently published these strictures, more briefly, in my *Main Illusions of Pacificism*. I am now ready to print, within the two covers of that book, as many of Dr. Jordan's incriminated paragraphs as he pleases, with whatever he can say in defence of them. I am extremely curious—as are some of my readers—to know how he would undertake to explain his complete misunderstanding of certain authors from whom he quotes. If he prefers, I will not even wait for a second edition, but will incorporate whatever he has to say in all the unbound copies which the printers have on hand. Dr. Jordan will thus have his full opportunity, and your readers will be spared a tedious wrangle about texts which they have not under their eyes.

—Yours faithfully,
G. G. COULTON.